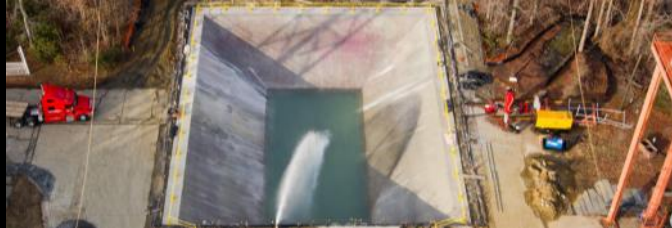


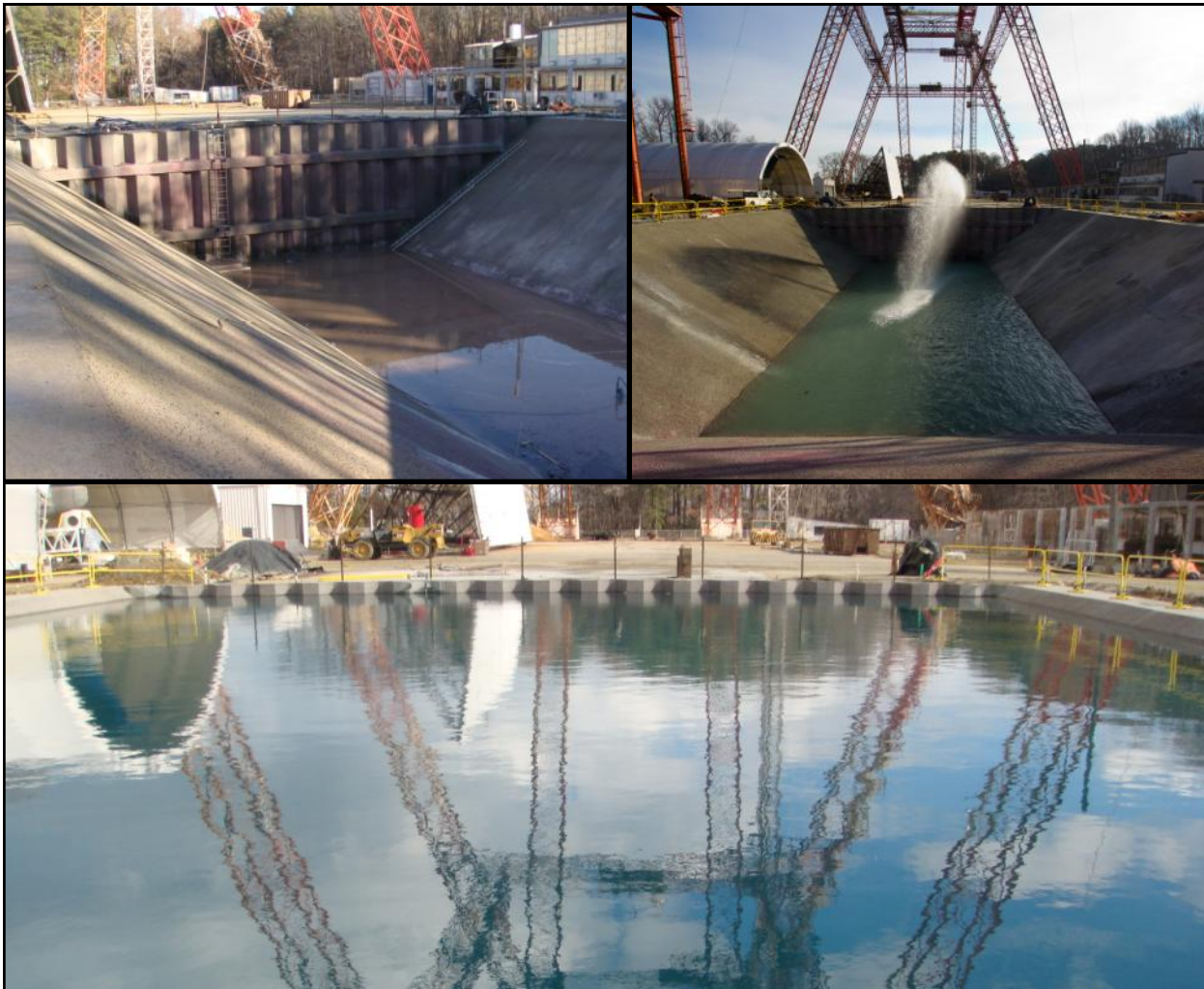
# ORION

CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE

WEEKLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

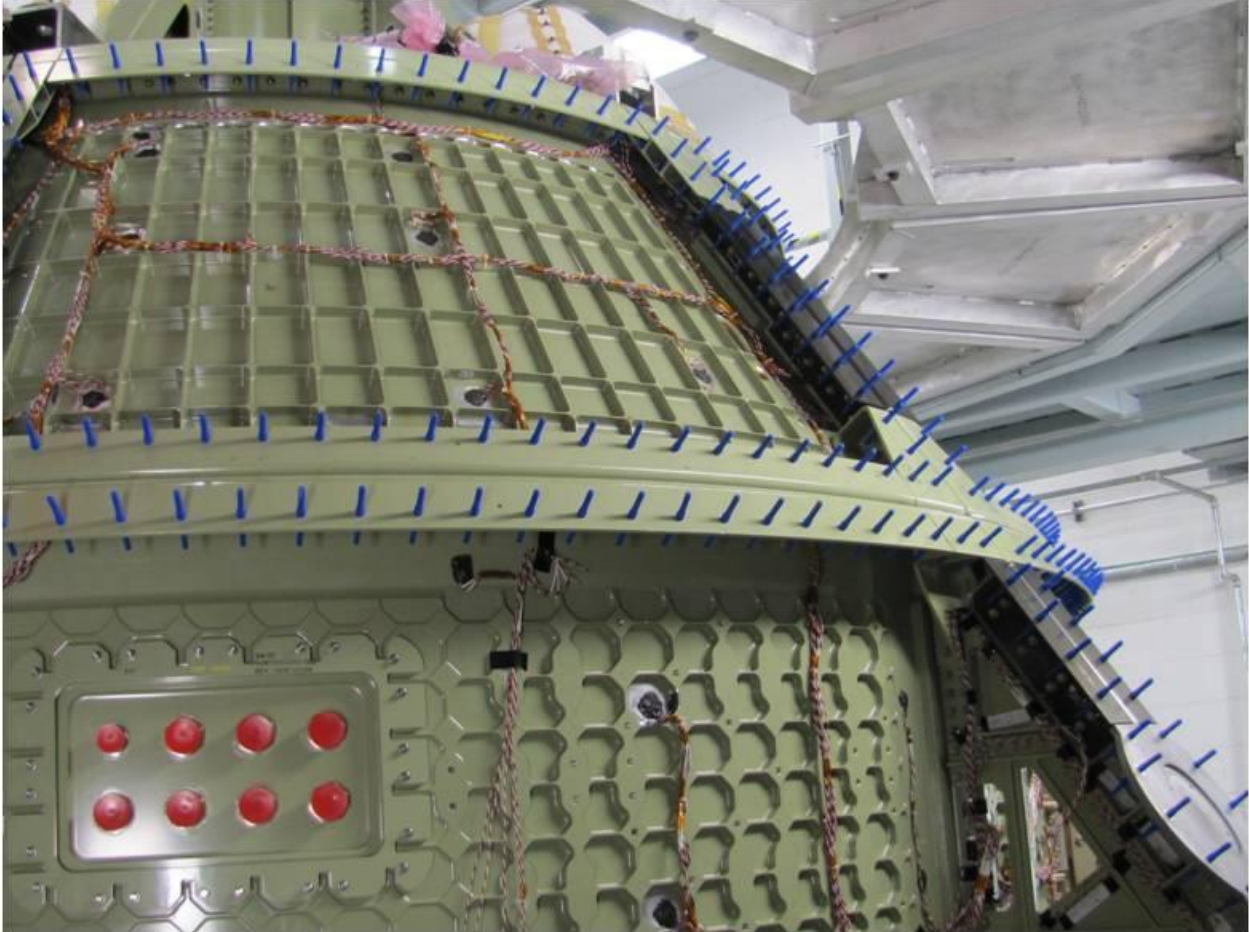


01.07.11



**Construction of NASA Langley Research Center's Hydro Impact Basin was recently completed and filled with one million gallons of water.** The 115-foot long, 20-foot deep and 90-foot wide facility is located at the west end of Langley's historic Landing and Impact Research Facility, known as the Gantry – where Neil Armstrong trained for walking on the moon. Construction of the facility began in June and recently finished on schedule, despite recent weather constraints. The Hydro Impact Basin will be used to validate and certify space vehicles – such as the Orion capsule – for water landings.

The Gantry provides the ability to control the orientation of the test article while imparting a vertical and horizontal impact velocity, which is required for human rating vehicles. All spacecraft (even vehicles that do not perform a nominal water landing) will need to be certified for launch abort landings into water. Following a series of review processes, testing using Orion drop test articles at the water basin will begin in late spring.



**Final activities are underway at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana to complete the Orion Crew Module ground test article for shipment to Denver in early February.** The team is completing the instrumentation and the thermal protection system structure in preparation for the installation of the thermal protection system that will take place at the Lockheed Martin Waterton facility in Denver, Colorado.

